

Please amend page 31, line 1 as follows:

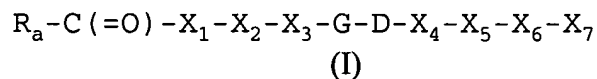
**Claims What is claimed is:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A compound comprising a peptidic vector and at least one fluorescein dye, wherein the peptidic vector comprises the amino acid sequence X<sub>3</sub>-G-D, wherein the peptidic vector and the fluorescein dyes are coupled, and wherein  
X<sub>3</sub> represents arginine, N-methylarginine or an arginine mimetic,  
G represents glycine,  
D represents aspartic acid,  
or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 given by formula I,



comprising two cyclising bridges,  
wherein X<sub>3</sub>, G and D are defined as in claim 1, and wherein

R<sub>a</sub> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>- forming a bridge to either X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>4</sub> or X<sub>6</sub>, wherein n represents a positive integer from 1 to 10, and

X<sub>1</sub> represents a bond or 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 amino acid residues, wherein one amino acid residue is optionally functionalised with a spacer moiety, or said amino acid residue possesses a functional side-chain such as an acid or amine group,

X<sub>2</sub> and X<sub>4</sub> represent independently amino acid residues capable of forming a cyclising bridge,

X<sub>5</sub> represents a hydrophobic amino acid or derivatives thereof, and

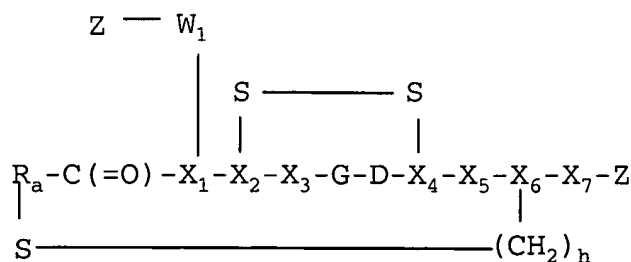
X<sub>6</sub> represents an amino acid residue capable of forming a cyclising bridge, and

X<sub>7</sub> represents a spacer or biomodifier moiety or is absent,

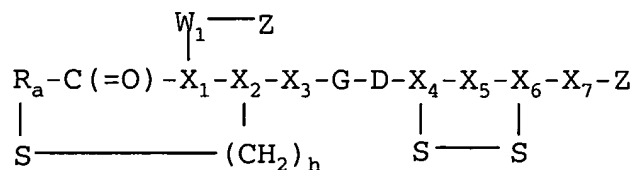
and,

the compound further comprising at least one group Z, representing a fluorescein dye, linked to one or more of the groups X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>6</sub> or X<sub>7</sub> optionally via a spacer group.

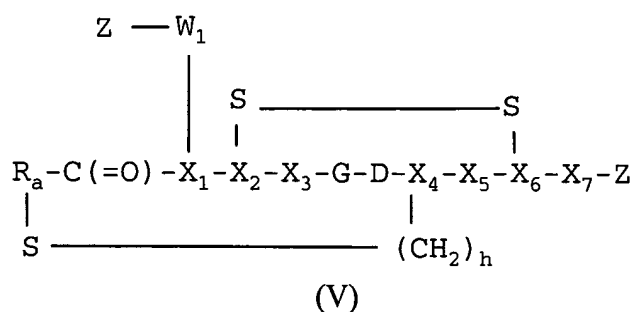
3. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 2 selected from one of the formulas;



(III)



(IV)



wherein  $\text{R}_a$ ,  $\text{X}_1$ ,  $\text{X}_3$ ,  $\text{G}$ ,  $\text{D}$ ,  $\text{X}_5$ , and  $\text{X}_7$  are as defined in claims 1 and 2 and wherein

$\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{X}_4$  and  $\text{X}_6$  represent amino acid residues capable of forming a disulphide or a thioether bond,

$\text{W}_1$  is a spacer moiety or is absent,

$h$  is a positive integer 1 or 2,

and wherein at least one of the  $\text{Z}$  groups is present representing a fluorescein dye.

4. (Original) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein  $\text{R}_a$  represents -  
( $\text{CH}_2$ )-.

5. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 or 4~~  
claim 3 wherein  $\text{X}_1$  represents an amino acid residue with a functional side-chain such as  
an acid or amine group, the amino acid being selected from aspartic acid, lysine, glutamic  
acid, homolysine or a diaminoalicyclic acid or derivatives thereof.

6. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 5~~  
claim 3 wherein  $\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{X}_4$  and  $\text{X}_6$  independently represent a cysteine or homocysteine  
residue.

7. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 6~~ claim 3 wherein X<sub>3</sub> represents arginine.
8. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 7~~ claim 3 wherein X<sub>5</sub> represents phenylalanine, tyrosine, a 3-iodo-tyrosine or naphthylalanine.
9. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 8~~ claim 3 wherein X<sub>7</sub> comprises 1-10 units of a monodisperse PEG building block or is absent.
10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, excipients or diluents.
11. (Currently amended) Compounds of ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 for use as an optical imaging contrast agent.
12. (Currently amended) A method of use Use of a compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 in the manufacture of an optical imaging contrast agent for use in a method of diagnosis involving administering said contrast agent to a human or animal body and generating an image of at least part of said body.
13. (Currently amended) A method of generating images of a human or animal body by optical imaging involving administering a contrast agent to said body, and generating an image of at least a part of said body to which said contrast agent has distributed, characterized in that said contrast agent comprises a compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.